

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Homer L. Wilkes, of Mississippi, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Wilkes nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The **PRESIDING OFFICER.** Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID FERRIERO

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is appropriate to take a moment here in the Senate to recognize David Ferriero, the 10th Archivist of the United States. Mr. Ferriero has held the top position at the National Archives since 2009, overseeing the maintenance and preservation of critical documents like the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, along with 10 million maps, 13 million pages of text, and tens of millions of photographs. On January 13, 2022, Mr. Ferriero announced his intention to retire in April.

Prior to his nomination and confirmation to be Archivist of the United States, David Ferriero spent decades as a librarian and library administrator for some of the largest research institutions and public library networks. After service in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam war, Mr. Ferriero worked as a librarian at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for over three decades. In 1996, he moved to North Carolina, where he served as the vice provost for library affairs at Duke University, where he helped to develop the Triangle Research Library Network to facilitate greater access to research materials and collaboration across universities. Later, Mr. Ferriero was appointed the Andrew W. Mellon director and chief executive of the research libraries of the New York Public Library system.

David Ferriero was nominated by President Obama and confirmed to be Archivist of the United States by the Senate in November 2009. Throughout his tenure as the leader of the National Archives, Mr. Ferriero made it his goal to bring the Archives and its vast range of historical records into the 21st century. He focused on digitizing the Archives' materials and improving availability of these materials online so that more Americans could access and benefit from these primary source records. Under his leadership, the Na-

tional Archives also embraced social media and worked hard to bring more Americans into the creation, organization, and maintenance of our Nation's history and records.

The documents and records maintained by the National Archives reflect the foundation and continuing story of our democracy and our Nation. They outline and define the evolution of the United States, documented throughout the pages of history, and preserved at the Archives as original source material. At this critical juncture in our endless march toward a more perfect union, our history becomes even more instructive.

Mr. Ferriero's commitment to making our Nation's archives more open and more available to all of us is to be commended and will be a hallmark of his tenure as the Archivist of the United States. I wish Mr. Ferriero and his wife, Gail, all the best in the next chapter of their lives.

I ask unanimous consent that a profile of Mr. Ferriero, appearing in *The Washington Post* on January 13, 2022, be printed in the *RECORD*.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the *RECORD*, as follows:

[From the *Washington Post*, Jan. 13, 2022]

DAVID S. FERRIERO, ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES, IS RETIRING
(By Michael E. Ruane)

David S. Ferriero, who has been the archivist of the United States for more than a decade under three presidents, is planning to retire in April.

Ferriero, 76, has been head of the National Archives and Records Administration since he was appointed by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the Senate in 2009.

"It has been the honor of a lifetime," Ferriero wrote in a note to his staff Wednesday. "My time here has been filled with opportunities, challenges, and awesome responsibilities. . . . I am humbled and awestruck and so deeply grateful—grateful to all of you."

In addition to housing national treasures such as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the National Archives holds 13 billion pages of text, 10 million maps, charts and drawings, as well as tens of millions of photographs, films and other records.

The archives is also responsible for the nation's 13 brick-and-mortar presidential libraries.

Before coming to the agency, Ferriero was director of the New York Public Libraries and served in top positions at the libraries of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Duke University. A native of Beverly, Mass., he served as a Navy hospital corpsman during the Vietnam War.

A self-described introvert, he is reserved and has a dry sense of humor. On his watch in 2014, the National Archives held its first sleepover.

He has pushed the digitization of the archives, and he embraced social media. In November, he noted in a blog post, "We know that not everyone can come to our facilities [for research] and providing these records online democratizes access."

He has also promoted the role of "citizen archivists" who volunteer to transcribe and review historic documents online.

"I have met or known half of all Archivists of the United States . . . and none has done

better" than Ferriero, historian Michael Beschloss tweeted.

One of the items framed in Ferriero's office is a copy of a letter he wrote to President John F. Kennedy when he was in high school. The letter had been found at the Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston.

The future archivist asked about the Peace Corps and requested a photo of JFK.

Later, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library found two letters Ferriero had written to President Eisenhower as a youngster, and the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library found one he had written to President Johnson. Ferriero had them framed in his office, too.

In 2020, the National Archives faced criticism when it posted in its headquarters building an exhibit with a picture that had been altered to blur out words suggesting criticism of President Donald Trump.

The large color photograph, designed to celebrate the centennial of women's suffrage, showed a massive protest crowd on Pennsylvania Avenue during the Women's March on Jan. 21, 2017, the day after Trump's inauguration. The original photo had been altered to obscure some words on signs held by marchers.

A placard that proclaimed "God Hates Trump" had "Trump" blotted out so that it read "God Hates." A sign that read "Trump & GOP—Hands Off Women" had the word "Trump" blurred out.

Less than 24 hours after *Washington Post* reporter Joe Heim pointed out the alterations, the National Archives apologized.

"We made a mistake," it said in a statement. "As the National Archives of the United States, we are and have always been completely committed to preserving our archival holdings, without alteration."

"We were wrong to alter the image," it said. "We apologize, and will immediately start a thorough review of our exhibit policies and procedures so that this does not happen again."

The altered picture was removed and replaced with an unaltered one.

"Our credibility, so important to our mission, understandably has been questioned," Ferriero wrote on his blog. "I take full responsibility for this decision and the broader concerns it has raised . . . [and] pledge to restore public confidence in this great institution."

The National Archives is headquartered in a massive 84-year-old granite and limestone landmark on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington's Federal Triangle. A "temple to American history," Ferriero called it.

The agency also has a large, more modern complex in College Park, Md.

Deputy Archivist Debra Steidel Wall will serve as acting archivist until the president nominates and the Senate confirms a successor.

"It is not easy to leave you with our important work continuing, especially initiatives to foster equity and enhance the employee and customer experiences," Ferriero told his staff. "However, our profession is one of stewardship, where despite our enduring responsibilities, we are here for what amounts to a brief period of time."

RECOGNIZING LANDMARK MAPLE WOODCRAFT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the holiday season having just passed is a wonderful reminder that the products of many small, local businesses often make the best gifts. I would like to take some time today to highlight Maple Landmark Woodcraft, a

Vermont business that I have turned to year after year for gifts for our children, grandchildren, other relatives and friends.

Today, Maple Landmark is one of the most prominent handmade wooden toy manufacturers in the United States. However, like many businesses, it started small, in Mike Rainville's family woodshop in rural Vermont in the 1980s. Mike's business began with building and selling mostly cribbage boards and tic-tac-toe games, but quickly grew to encompass a wide range of toys, games, puzzles, and home decorations. Among Maple Landmark's most famous products are the wooden letter train sets that have graced the bedrooms of millions of children across the country. They are also in the Leahy homes.

Over the past 40 years, due to its beautiful craftsmanship and joyful products, Maple Landmark has been able to expand its sales operation to toy stores and distributors throughout the United States and abroad. All the while, it has maintained all manufacturing and sourcing operations in Vermont, at their facility in Middlebury. Mike and his team's devotion to their craft has allowed for the development of a strong homegrown business in Vermont that has helped to show the world all that our State has to offer.

In March 2020, as much of the world shut down and many families and children began learning, working, and spending more time at home, the popularity of Maple Landmark's toys and games exploded. Facing an unprecedented increase in orders from across the United States, Maple Landmark has been firing on all cylinders. This past holiday season was its busiest yet.

Unfortunately, Landmark Maple has not been immune to the labor shortages that continue to strain businesses nationwide. While labor shortages are nothing new for many businesses across rural communities in Vermont, those brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic have been particularly challenging. The inability to find a sustainable workforce coupled with the greater effort necessary to recruit and train new workers has made it more difficult for Landmark Maple to take advantage of rising demand that would otherwise be a boon for the business.

The story of Landmark Maple is far from unique, and it reaffirms that we need to do all we can to control the pandemic, vaccinate the population, and fully restore the economy. Everyone who can get vaccinated must get vaccinated. Everyone who is eligible for a booster shot, must get their booster shot. If we make these responsible choices and continue to prioritize the collective health and safety of our families and communities, more Americans will be willing and able to enter, reenter, and remain in the workforce. In doing so, we will be able to ensure that businesses like Maple Landmark Woodcraft can continue to operate and

contribute to their communities for years to come.

Maple Landmark was profiled in a November 10, 2021, article published in the Washington Post. I ask unanimous consent that the article titled, "Ho, ho, no: For maker of wooden toys, the struggle ahead of Christmas is not finding supplies, but finding workers" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 10, 2021]

HO, HO, NO: FOR MAKER OF WOODEN TOYS, THE STRUGGLE AHEAD OF CHRISTMAS IS NOT FINDING SUPPLIES, BUT FINDING WORKERS

(By Jeanne Whalen)

With eight weeks to go until Christmas, tensions were running high at one of Vermont's oldest toymakers. As hammers fell on hardwood and machine tools cut train engines, managers gathered around a table to confront a daunting list of unfilled orders.

"We need 32 sets of chess pieces. I don't have 32 sets," assembly supervisor Anne Cummings told half a dozen colleagues, sparking a quick discussion of when the items might appear.

"Umm, hobby horses? We'll want at least three to get finished by tomorrow at the latest," process engineer Adam Rainville told the workshop foreman.

Unlike much of the toy industry, Maple Landmark isn't suffering from a lack of imported materials as global supply lines buckle. The maker of wooden toys gets nearly all its lumber from nearby mills and has little trouble buying lacquer, paint and sandpaper from its Vermont suppliers.

As it fields an unprecedented crush of orders, the main factor holding it back is a shortage of workers.

"We're just really, really busy and hiring workforce is a challenge," said Mike Rainville, who founded the business 40 years ago. "We could use more in assembly. We can use more in the shop. I mean, really, any production position we can probably use help in."

Rainville has been trying for weeks to hire three or four workers to add to his crew of 46, but competition is fierce. The cheese factory up the road has eight open positions. The cidery next door and the teddy bear factory on Route 7 have large "Help Wanted" signs outside. Maple Landmark has raised its average wage rate by more than 7 percent over the last year, Rainville said—the average production worker earns over \$15 an hour—but some local companies with deeper pockets are offering signing bonuses, a perk Rainville said he can't afford to match.

With an unemployment rate of only 2.9 percent, Vermont is an extreme example of a problem plaguing employers across the country. In some regions, a shortage of workers is more challenging to Christmas preparations than the global scarcity of semiconductors or the cargo deluge overwhelming ports.

A nationwide shopping spree is exacerbating the strain on companies like Maple Landmark. Flush with cash from nearly two years of forgoing restaurant meals and travel, Americans are bingeing on products—electronics, clothes, gifts and anything else they can click into an online shopping cart.

In September, household spending on goods was 14 percent higher than it was as the pandemic was beginning in February 2020, according to David Wilcox, an economist with the Peterson Institute for International Economics. If normal pre-pandemic trends had continued, demand for goods would be only 5 percent higher now, he said.

Maple Landmark felt the surge as soon as it began. In early 2020, Rainville was grumbling to his staff about the surplus of Chinese checkers sets gathering dust in inventory. But by April and May, as Americans were trapped indoors under lockdown, "we sold hundreds of them," he said.

A rush of online orders last year nearly made up for the collapse in Maple Landmark's sales to shuttered retailers. Now, with many shops having reopened, "we're getting hit from all sides," Rainville said. "Every week we are falling further behind our incoming orders."

Recently, the company stopped taking Christmas orders from new retailers so it could focus on its existing retail clients.

Maple Landmark has searched for workers the conventional way—with posts on the employment website Indeed.com—and the quirky Vermont way, with a sign near its kindling pile behind the shop.

The company leaves wood scraps there for anyone to take. This summer, Rainville tacked a piece of paper to the shed: "Help Wanted. Employees get dibs on scrap wood! Apply inside."

That brought in a few candidates, leading to one hire. But other interviews led nowhere, perhaps because workers have so many choices, Rainville said.

"People come in thinking that, gosh, making toys, that sounds like fun," he said. "Once they take a tour through the shop or something, they say, 'Okay, this is work.' And then, maybe if we had interest, we'd call them in for a second interview and they don't respond."

It's also hard to find people good at working with their hands, Rainville said, a phenomenon he attributes to the decline in farming life, which taught people to fix and build things.

Vermont demographics—an aging population and a shrinking workforce—were already working against employers before the pandemic. With the new consumption surge, competition for workers has become extreme.

A few months ago, Rainville found himself vying with the local school bus company for one employee.

"We almost came close to getting her on full-time in the summer, and then the bus company called her up and said, 'We need you in the fall and we're going to pay you anything to have you.'"

Signs of the problem are everywhere. In nearby Burlington, several long shelves at a CVS Pharmacy were bare, including large sections missing school supplies and ibuprofen. An employee said the pharmacy couldn't find enough workers to stock the shelves, while a sign on the door said the store was trimming its opening hours due to staffing shortages.

Shopping at the CVS was Devlin Cahill-Garcia, a 20-year-old community college student who earns \$13 an hour working at a shop on the other side of town. "I do have a job at the moment, but I'm trying to find a better one, which is easier than ever now," he said.

When covid hit, some of Cahill-Garcia's friends at the University of Vermont quit their part-time jobs in Burlington. Many haven't returned, possibly because their parents can support them, he said. "After being unemployed so long, I don't think a lot of people want to go back to work," he said.

Down the road, Lake Champlain Chocolates has asked its administrative staff, including marketing director Allyson Myers, to take shifts in the factory to keep up with holiday demand that is 20 percent higher than in 2019.

"This has been a kind of organization-wide call of, 'Okay, administrative team, we need you to step up and help us because we are

short,” said Myers, who has pitched in bagging Hanukkah gelt and peppermint patties. The family-owned company also held its first job fair this month to try to fill about 20 openings and has raised its manufacturing starting wage by about 10 percent since last year, said Myers, who called the labor shortage a bigger problem than supply-chain issues.

Matt Parker, head of sales at Danforth Pewter, a workshop and retail business that sells ornaments and home decor, agreed with that assessment. The company has had no trouble getting pewter from its Rhode Island supplier but has struggled to fill about eight openings in production, customer service and retail, Parker said.

The company has raised wages this year—by 5 to 10 percent, he estimated—and is offering bonuses to new and existing employees. Parker said he doesn’t know why it has been so hard to hire, but guessed that the pandemic “obviously threw a lot of people off entering the workforce” and made them worry about getting infected.

At Maple Landmark, soaring demand and a lack of workers this summer stripped the company of its inventory, leaving it with little to fill the holiday rush. As a result, the woodworkers are making things to order as purchases roll in.

One of the company’s biggest sellers is the “name train”—a chain of brightly colored letters on wheels that spell a child’s name, between an engine and a caboose. Letters are everywhere in the workshop—an automated machine cutting a tray of O’s, a worker putting wheels on a carton of red H’s.

At the morning meeting, Cummings raised an urgent problem: They had run out of the letter E.

“Yellow E,” clarified Rainville’s mother, Pat Rainville, who works in production. The customer has specifically requested that color for that letter, so more would have to be made.

At her station downstairs, Pat Rainville motioned toward a wall of shelves that should have been stuffed with boxes holding every letter in a variety of hues. But many of the shelves were empty.

Things got so bad over one recent weekend that even the letter Q was in short supply, Mike Rainville said. “We know we’re low when even Q’s run out.”

BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, S. Con. Res. 14, the fiscal year 2022 congressional budget resolution, included authority in section 4009 to allow the chairman of the Committee on the Budget to adjust budget aggregates and committee allocations after the enactment of bipartisan infrastructure legislation. Similarly, the reserve fund in section 3003 allows the chairman to revise these levels as well as make adjustments to the pay-as-you-go ledger for legislation that would not increase the deficit over the period of 2022 to 2031.

H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was enacted on November 15, 2021, meets the conditions of being bipartisan infrastructure legislation. As a result, I am revising the budget spending aggregates and the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations by \$3,230 million in outlays resulting from the increase in contract authority included in that bill.

Furthermore, the combined budgetary impact of the direct spending and

revenue provisions in that bill reduce the deficit over 10 years. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that H.R. 3684 will decrease nonemergency mandatory outlays by \$3.7 billion in 2022 and by almost \$90 billion over the period 2022 through 2031. Revenues will increase by more than \$8 billion in 2022 and more than \$50 billion over the period 2022 through 2031. As such, I am revising the spending and revenue aggregates and the allocation to the Committee on Environment and Public Works by the relevant amounts. I am also revising the Senate pay-as-you-go scorecard. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act also increased discretionary spending; that spending is designated as an emergency and is therefore excluded from enforceable budgetary spending levels and committee allocations.

Finally, section 4004 of the budget resolution allows the chairman to adjust budgetary levels for legislation containing disaster relief funding. I am increasing the outlay allocation to the Committee on Appropriations by \$89 million as a result of passage of H.R. 5305, the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act, which was enacted on September 30, 2021.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables, which provide details about the adjustment, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD FOR THE SENATE	
[Revisions Pursuant to Section 3003 of S. Con. Res. 14, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022]	
(\$ in billions)	
	Balances
Current Balances:	
Fiscal Year 2022	7.144
Fiscal Years 2022–2026	7.079
Fiscal Years 2022–2031	0
Revisions:	
Fiscal Year 2022	–15.506
Fiscal Years 2022–2026	–82.969
Fiscal Years 2022–2031	–138.704
Revised Balances:	
Fiscal Year 2022	–8.362
Fiscal Years 2022–2026	–75.890
Fiscal Years 2022–2031	–138.704

Note: Adjustment reflects the direct spending and revenue implications of H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Pursuant to section 3110 of S. Con. Res. 11 (114th Congress), the FY 2016 budget resolution, the adjustment excludes \$21 billion over ten years of increased enterprise guarantee fees.

REVISIONS TO BUDGET AGGREGATES—BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAYS	
(Pursuant to Sections 4004 & 4009 of S. Con. Res. 14)	
(\$ in billions)	
	2022
Current Spending Aggregates:	
Budget Authority	4,145.465
Outlays	4,504.246
Adjustment:	
Budget Authority	–2.226
Outlays	–3.692
Revised Aggregates:	
Budget Authority	4,143.239
Outlays	4,500.554

Note: The adjustment represents an adjustment pursuant to Sec. 4009 of S. Con. Res. 14 for a bipartisan infrastructure agreement that reduced direct spending budget authority and outlays but increased discretionary outlays, as well as an adjustment pursuant to Sec. 4004 for additional disaster-related outlays from H.R. 5305. Pursuant to section 3110 of S. Con. Res. 11 (114th Congress), the FY 2016 budget resolution, the adjustment excludes \$2.9 billion of increased enterprise guarantee fees.

REVISIONS TO BUDGET REVENUE AGGREGATES			
(Pursuant to Sections 3003 & 4009 of S. Con. Res. 14, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022)			
(\$ in billions)			
	2022	2022–2026	2026–2031
Current Revenue Aggregates ...	3,401.380	17,795.693	38,957.446
Adjustments	8.495	21.319	50.085
Revised Revenue Aggregates ...	3,409.875	17,817.012	39,007.531

Note: Adjustment includes additional revenue enacted in H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

REVISIONS TO ALLOCATION TO SENATE COMMITTEES			
(Pursuant to Sections 3003 & 4009 of S. Con. Res. 14, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022)			
(\$ in billions)			
	2022	2022–2026	2026–2031
Environment and Public Works:			
Budget Authority	48.743	243.930	492.473
Outlays	14.326	39.006	63.219
Revisions:			
Budget Authority	–2.226	14.580	72.681
Outlays	–7.011	–61.650	–88.619
Revised Environment & Public Works:			
Budget Authority	46.517	258.510	565.154
Outlays	7.315	–22.644	–25.400

Note: Adjustment includes additional direct spending budget authority and net outlay reductions enacted in H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Pursuant to section 3110 of S. Con. Res. 11 (114th Congress), the FY 2016 budget resolution, the adjustment excludes \$21 billion over ten years of increased enterprise guarantee fees.

REVISIONS TO THE OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022			
(Pursuant to Sections 4004 & 4009 of S. Con. Res. 14)			
(\$ in billions)			
	Current Allocation	Adjustments	Revised Allocation
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays	1,676.447	3.319	1,679.766

Note: The adjustment for outlays represents an adjustment pursuant to Sec. 4009 of S. Con. Res. 14 for a bipartisan infrastructure agreement for \$3,230 million of additional outlays from the increased level of contract authority in H.R. 3684 and an adjustment pursuant to Sec. 4004 for \$89 million of additional disaster-related outlays from H.R. 5305.

REMEMBERING DR. LESTER CARTER

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Dr. Lester Carter, who passed away on January 31, 2022, at the age of 90. Dr. Carter was a pharmacist who founded one of Milwaukee’s first Black-owned pharmacies and worked there for over five decades.

Dr. Carter enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in the Korean war. He was sent to the Hospital Corpsman School in Portsmouth, VA, for training in healthcare and was later assigned to the USS *Tortuga* for 2 and a half years. After being discharged in 1954, he attended pharmacy school at Creighton University in Omaha, NE, and became the school’s first African-American graduate in 1958. Dr. Carter worked at a “Whites only” pharmacy in Omaha for 6 years, only being allowed to work in the backroom out of public view.

After filling in at a pharmacy in Milwaukee, WI, Dr. Carter was offered a position at the store and moved to the city. He then began looking for his own store and found out about a pharmacy located on North 24th and West Burleigh where the owners wanted to retire. Dr. Carter purchased the pharmacy and set up shop in what at the time was a majority White and German neighborhood. Dr. Carter learned German phrases and quickly earned a great deal of respect and trust from his customers.